

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 22 through page 3, line 19, with the following amended paragraph:

A typical prior art information recording apparatus, known from ~~US-A-5,868,941~~ US-A-5,446,722, comprises a vacuum chamber, an electron beam generator mounted on a top portion of the vacuum chamber and emitting an electron beam into the vacuum chamber, and a spindle motor driving a spindle to rotate the recording medium in the vacuum chamber. The spindle motor is enclosed in a casing within the vacuum chamber to prevent the magnetic fields of the spindle motor from interfering within the electron beam. The casing is mounted on a movement means effecting radial movement of the rotating spindle. The movement means is in turn mounted on a bottom portion of the vacuum chamber. To reduce friction, the spindle is mounted on a pneumatic bearing on the spindle motor. As a result of the pneumatic bearing, the interior of the casing is in communication with the atmosphere. This prior art apparatus suffers from a number of drawbacks. First, the apparatus is sensitive to changes in ambient temperature and to mechanical vibrations. Such changes will translate into dimensional changes affecting the accuracy with which the structures can be produced on the recording medium. Second, it is a laborious task to mount the electron beam generator precisely perpendicular to the recording medium, complicating both assembly and maintenance of the apparatus. Also, the walls of the vacuum chamber might flex during assembly of the apparatus, thereby changing presumably known dimensional relationships and necessitating excessive fine adjustments on a trial and error basis.

Third, it is difficult to completely prevent magnetic fields from entering the vacuum chamber.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

These objects are at least partly achieved by ~~[[the]]~~ an information recording apparatus comprising:

a vacuum chamber;

an energy beam generator partially enclosed in the vacuum chamber for emitting
an energy beam for recording information on a recording medium;

a spindle disposed in the vacuum chamber for rotating the recording medium,
said spindle being driven to rotate by a spindle motor;

a movable holder disposed in the vacuum chamber for carrying the spindle motor
and the spindle;

a feed motor unit connected to the movable holder for linearly moving the spindle
in a vacuum atmosphere within the vacuum chamber; and

a common base member;

wherein the holder, the vacuum chamber, and the energy beam generator are
fixed to the common base member ~~as defined in independent claim 1. Preferred~~
~~embodiments are defined in the dependent claims.~~